

Victoria Hively

March 19, 2009 – HB 6452

“It's the same bill as last year--gender identity and gender expression. Basically an anti-discrimination bill.” Those are the exact words that Sally Tamarkin sent to me over Facebook on Tuesday. “It's the same bill as last year,” Does anyone see how that sentence should have never been written? Why are we here for another year fighting for something that all people should have? Sally, I and the other speakers, shouldn't have to be sitting here telling you the same things we did last year. Are we in the French Revolution? I doubt that! So why are we fighting for equality in 2009? I can text people in India on my phone right now, but people can't have equal rights. If I were to dress up like a man every day for the rest of my life, I would demand that my expressions be backed up so that if someone fired me from a job, if someone told me that transsexuals or transvestites were bad people I wouldn't have to deal with negative things. Why is it okay that someone who is being themselves can't have the same rights? No one should be discriminated because they are doing what their mother told them to do all their life. No one should be discriminated against because they feel better, they feel prettier, and they have better self esteem when they are being who they feel is the right person.

I know that some of you are sitting here bored out of your mind, thinking that what we're fighting for, what we demand, is completely ridiculous. You can vote no, go ahead, try to sleep knowing that you just said it was perfectly fine that people are being fired because ten years ago they had a sex change. Try not to cry while thinking that someone just committed suicide because they don't have the same rights as you yourself do. People shouldn't have to sit through hell because they are different. Everyone in Connecticut, in the United States, and the world

should be able to dress, act and have whatever body parts their little heart's desire, and no one should be able to take that away from them.

I'm not asking for ten million dollars, all I'm asking for is equality, we gave it to women we gave it to African Americans we gave it to foreigners. Now all that is left to do is give it to the people in America who sit at home wondering if that sex change was the right thing or not, they shouldn't have to think twice about a choice that made them feel better and made them feel like the person they know they should be.

J.F.K. once said "My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you -- ask what you can do for your country." I've done what I can for my country, now do your part and make equality equal among all of us. By doing so, you're making it so that one less person gets fired, one less person commits suicide, one less person has to take crap from another because they are different.

Thank you very much; I truly hope that I won't be sitting here next year.